San Francisco Bay Area Network

Inventory and Monitoring Program

The San Francisco Bay Area Network Inventory and Monitoring Program tracks the status and trends of the region's natural resources in order to improve park management through greater reliance on scientific knowledge.

Project Highlights – November 2006

What species can be found in the riparian habitats at Pinnacles National Monument?
Scientists conducted a survey of vertebrates and invertebrates in riparian habitats at PINN from 2001 to 2005. Using a variety of techniques including ocular surveys, kick nets, dip nets, aerial sweep nets, and blacklight traps a total of nine aquatic vertebrate species and 248 aquatic macro-invertebrates were documented. Vertebrates included two species of fish, four amphibians, and three reptiles. Species of concern found during the surveys include the federally threatened California red-legged frog, southern Pacific pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*), endemic Pinnacles riffle beetle (*Optioservus canus*), and exotic mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*). These results indicated that the aquatic vertebrates have remained relatively unchanged over the last 40-years, with the exception of the loss of some exotic fish species and the decline of the California red-legged frog. The re-establishment of the frog has resulted in a moderate breeding population which is dispersing. The exotic mosquitofish were abundant in lower Chalone Creek. The survey also more than doubled the number of dragonflies and damselflies known to occur in San Benito County from 15 to 38. One aquatic worm new to science was discovered. High diversity of groups such as Eremidrilus worms and Hydropsyche caddisflies are an indication that the PINN aquatic ecosystem is fairly healthy. This update was excerpted from the SFAN Inventory Report which summarizes results of biological inventories conducted in the network from 2000-2005. For a copy of the report go to our website: http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/index.cfm.

For more information about this project, contact Paul Johnson, Network Ecologist: Paul_Johnson@nps.gov; 831- 389-4485 x 271).

What are the long-term trends in the number of spotted owl sites and number of spotted owl young in Marin County?

If you have ever wondered about this question, you should take a look at a two-page Northern Spotted Owl Monitoring Briefing just released. The document provides a succinct summary of data collected during the 2005 field season as part of a long-term population study at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, and Point Reyes National Seashore. The summary also highlights data going back to 1997. You can download a copy at the SFAN website:
http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/vital_signs/spotted_owls.cfm

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Project Highlights are published monthly and can be downloaded from the SFAN website:
http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/index.cfm.